

Message Text

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72

ACTION EUR-25

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R 311721Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0086

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01683

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND J-7

DEPT ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MILI, ENRG, GW, IR

SUBJECT: FRG ARMS COOPERATION WITH IRAN

REF: (A) BONN 1326, (B) BONN 1492 (NOTAL), (C) BONN A-414

- JUNE 27, 1973

1. DURING JAN 31 CONVERSATION CONCERNING GERMAN
BILATERAL PROJECTS WITH IRAN (SEE REF A), FONOFF
ASSISTANT SECRETARY LAHN CONFIRMED THAT FRG IS PREPARED
TO EXTEND INCREASED ASSISTANCE TO IRANIAN DEFENSE INDUS-
TRY. LAHN SAID FRG DEFENSE MINISTRY STATE SECRETARY
MANN HAS VISITED TEHRAN SEVERAL TIMES TO CONFER WITH
IRANIAN MILITARY EXPERTS. AS REPORTED REF B, BGENERAL
BENSIEN WILL HEAD ADVISORY TEAM PLANNING FURTHER TRIP
TO IRAN.

2. LAHN SAID IRAN HAS REQUESTED ASSISTANCE IN CONSTRUCT-
ING FACTORY FOR ASSEMBLY (NOT PRODUCTION) OF TANKS AND
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MODERN ARTILLERY; IRANIANS ALSO DESIRE LEOPARD TANK
PARTS FOR ASSEMBLY. THESE REQUESTS WERE NOT APPROVED

WHEN MADE BY IRAN A FEW YEARS AGO DUE TO THEN POOR FRG/
IRANIAN RELATIONS; HOWEVER, BILATERAL TIES HAVE IMPROVED
SINCE CHANCELLOR BRANDT'S 1971 VISIT TO TEHRAN AND RECENT
TALKS ON COOPERATIVE PROJECTS. LAHN SAID FINAL GERMAN
DECISION ON IRANIAN REQUESTS WILL REQUIRE APPROVAL OF
FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO CONSIDER
DE*ISION SOON.

3. COMMENT - FRG ARMS SUPPLY POLICY IS QUITE RESTRICTIVE
ABOUT SELLING ARMS TO NON-NATO COUNTRIES (SEE REF C).
PROJECT SOUGHT BY IRANIANS WOULD REPRESENT MAJOR EXCEP-
TION TO THIS POLICY. NONETHELESS, GIVEN FRG WISH FOR
STABLE ENERGY SUPPLY , LAHN IMPLIED THAT EVEN RESTRIC-
TIVE FRG ARMS SUPPLY POLICY COULD BE INTERPRETED TO
MEET NEEDS OF CURRENT SITUATION.
HILLENBRAND

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